Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An NC machining assisting system ~~characterized in that~~

comprising: a plurality of NC machine tools each including NC program generating means and

NC program improving and updating means that are connected to a central manager via a

network; actual machining performance information is supplied to the central manager from the

respective NC machine tools; the central manager generates a database on the basis of the

collected actual machining performance information and stores the database therein; and the NC

machine tools are each permitted to retrieve information necessary for machining from the

database.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An NC machining assisting system ~~characterized in that~~

comprising: a plurality of NC machine tools each including NC program generating means and

NC program improving and updating means that are connected to a central manager via a

network; actual machining performance information is supplied to the central manager from the

respective NC machine tools; the central manager generates a database on the basis of the actual

machining performance information collected via the network and stores the database therein;

and an apparatus other than the NC machine tools which has a network connecting function is

permitted to retrieve information necessary for machining from the database through connection

to the central manager via the network.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An NC machining assisting system as set forth in claim 1 or 2, further ~~characterized~~ <u>comprising</u> in that the actual machining performance information includes at least one of workpiece information, tool information, cutting condition information, jig information, machine specification information, machining history information, machine operation history information, tool use history information and jig use history information.